

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 08430 121523Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 NEAE-00 /011 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7111

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

NEA/PAB PETER LANDE ONLY FROM CONSTABLE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, PK

SUBJECT: PL-480 WHEAT

1. IN VIEW OF MIKE ADLER'S CABLE TO JOE WHEELER INSTRUCTING HIM NOT TO DISCUSS MODALITIES OF THE 200,000 TONS OF PL-480 WHEAT WITH GOP OFFICIALS, JOE'S AUGUST 11 MEETING WITH AFTAB AHMED KHAN AT EAD WAS PRETTY SPARSE. JOE DID MAKE THE POINT THAT THE GOP SHOULD BE DEVELOPING AN OVERALL STRATEGY FOR USING THE 200,000 TONS OF WHEAT IN CONNECTION WITH FLOOD REHABILITATION EFFORTS. WE ARE ALSO GIVING SOME THOUGHT--INCONCLUSIVE AT THIS POINT--AS TO HOW WE MIGHT STRUCTURE OUR AGREEMENT TO TIE THE PL-480 PROCEEDS INTO THESE REHABILITATION EFFORTS. WE DO NOT HOWEVER HAVE MUCH TO TELL YOU NOW ABOUT TIMING OF SHIPMENTS OR HOW A BREAKDOWN BETWEEN TITLE I AND TITLE II MIGHT WORK HERE.

2. I AM SOMEWHAT CONCERNED FROM MIKE'S TELEGRAM THAT WASHINGTON MAY MAKE SOME HARD AND FAST DECISIONS ON WHICH QUARTER THE WHEAT WILL COME FROM AND THE NATURE OF A TITLE II PROGRAM, BEFORE WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES WITH THE GOP. I WOULD HOPE THAT THE DECISION REACHED IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK OR NEXT CAN BE FRAMED IN A TENTATIVE WAY, CONTINGENT ON A FULL DISCUSSION OF THE NEEDS AND DESIRES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN, SO THAT WE ARE NOT PUT IN A POSITION OF PRESENTING A TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT PACKAGE THAT COULD PRESENT INSURMOUNTABLE

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PROBLEMS FOR THE GOP (E.G. A REQUIREMENT FOR FULL SHIPMENT PRIOR

TO SEPTEMBER 30).

3. I KNOW YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS ON YOUR END AS WELL, AND I ALSO KNOW HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO MAINTAIN FLEXIBILITY ON PL-480 IN THE WASHINGTON BUREAUCRACY. BUT GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE SECRETARY'S OFFER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN A POSTURE THAT WE ARE TRYING TO RESPOND TO PAKISTAN'S NEED RATHER THAN IMPOSING OUR OWN PACKAGE ON THEM. BEST REGARDS.
BYROADE

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